

Message Text

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42

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY RANGOON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 182677

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: OREP, BM (MANSFIELD)

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON CODEL MANSFIELD

REF: A. RANGOON 2162; B. STATE 179991

1. MANSFIELD PARTY MEMBERS VALEO AND JONES WERE BRIEFED ORALLY BY DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS INCLUDING ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB, WITH EMPHASIS ON NARCOTICS CONTROL PROGRAMS AND U.S. ECONOMIC/COMMERCIAL INTERESTS. BURMA'S RELATIONS WITH THE PRC AND THAILAND AS WELL AS THE INTERNAL BURMESE POLITICAL SITUATION WERE TOUCHED UPON AS WELL.

2. BACKGROUND PAPERS PREPARED FOR THE SENATOR PRESENT FRANK APPRAISALS OF THE ABOVE TOPICS PLUS THE POOR STATE OF THE BURMESE ECONOMY, CIVIL UNREST, INSURGENCY, AND CULTURAL EXCHANGE. THE PARTY WILL ALSO BE GIVEN A COPY OF UNCLASSIFIED BACKGROUND NOTES AND A SUMMARY OF THE CURRENT NARCOTICS SITUATION IN NORTHEAST BURMA.

3. THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT FEEL DISCUSSIONS OF POSSIBLE US PARTICIPATION IN ANY CONSORTIUM ARRANGEMENTS FOR
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ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE IS APPROPRIATE AT THIS TIME. DETAILS

OF OUR VIEW ON THIS ISSUE WILL FOLLOW SHORTLY BY SEPTTEL.

4. SENATOR MANSFIELD AND PRESIDENT NE WIN HAVE BEEN FRIENDS FOR MANY YEARS AND THIS IS APPARENTLY THE PRIMARY REASON FOR THE RANGOON STOPOVER. WE HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE WHAT, IF ANY, SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES THEY WILL DISCUSS.

5. THE PURPOSE OF THE SENATOR'S TRIP IS "FACT FINDING," AND HE WILL BE VISITING THE AZORES, LISBON, JIDDA, RANGOON, BANGKOK, HONG KONG, MANILA, AND HONOLULU. THE SENATOR HAS EMPHASIZED THAT HE WANTS NO RPT NO CONTACT WITH THE PRESS AND NO RPT NO UNNECESSARY PUBLICITY.

6. SENATOR MANSFIELD, SAHAGIAN, VALEO, JONES AND SCHWARTZ ALL HAVE CURRENT TOP SECRET CLEARANCES. INGERSOLL

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